



New Zealand judged top of the world in educating for the future

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A recent study conducted by British based Economist Intelligence Unit has concluded that New Zealand education is ranked top of the world in the 'Educating for the Future Index'. Produced for the first time, this new ranking measures the extent to which 35 countries facilitate the acquisition of particular skills, rather than encouraging rote learning.

Of the 35 countries assessed, New Zealand comes first. It is marked highly for focusing on "future skills" as a strategic policy imperative and the implementation of this in its school curriculum, approach to project based learning, teacher training, careers counselling and collaboration between education and industry. The country's cultural diversity and tolerance is also cited as positively impacting on the index results.

Contributing to this successful reputation and recently established in the UK, global provider Cognition Education brings over 20 years' experience of delivering educational consultancy, support and professional development in New Zealand and is offering equivalent world leading services to UK schools, academies, colleges and their wider communities.

The report notes that "content knowledge is becoming a commodity" and that the skill of applying knowledge is more important than the knowledge itself. The six skills it identifies as key to success in the future are:

- » *Interdisciplinary skills;*
- » *Creative and analytical skills;*
- » *Entrepreneurial skills;*
- » *Leadership skills;*
- » *Digital and technical skills; and*
- » *Global awareness and civic education.*

The importance of such skills has long been supported by Cognition. The group, originally established in New Zealand and now successfully offering its expertise to more than 2000 clients across the world, including 30 Governments, has positively impacted the lives of more than two million learners worldwide.

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In fact, Cognition's recent work includes a pioneering project in the United Arab Emirates to equip students with the soft skills and behaviours required for the 21st century, regardless of their chosen curriculum.

Since establishing itself in the UK, Cognition has successfully worked in partnership with the Education and Training Foundation to deliver professional development in the Further Education sector. A new collaboration with the Alliance of Leading Learning, a successful school-led partnership, has secured a licence to deliver National Professional Qualifications in leadership to the schools sector, which will draw on Cognition's international expertise and include a focus on forging greater links between education and business.

Mel Hilton, Regional Director of Cognition Education in Europe, Middle East and Africa says "Cognition is proud of its heritage and the role it has played in education improvement and reform in New Zealand. We welcome the findings of the report and are thrilled to now be applying our international knowledge and expertise in the UK and across the wider region".

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